



**LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS:**

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

January 2007

Issue No. 430

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2006

**Article by
Virginia Enzor NC4VA
Central Carolina SKYWARN
Emergency Coordinator**

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2006 officially took place Saturday, December 2, from 0000-2400 UTC. Over one hundred National Weather Service offices across the nation participated in this 8th annual event, including the Raleigh National Weather Service. Using the call sign WX4NC, Central Carolina SKYWARN joined in the fun at the NWS from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, making contacts on the 146.88 repeater, the 147.105 repeater, the Carolina 440 UHF Link System, IRLP and HF.

The day began with Dave Roy W4DNA, arriving at the NWS at 7:00 AM to put up two HF antennas, a Carolina Windom and a 20 meter dipole. Assisting him periodically were other early birders Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Bob Woodson WX4MMM, Virginia Enzor NC4VA and Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

By 9:00 AM, most volunteers arrived, eager to man the radios.

Volunteers serving as radio operators for the event included NWS Meteorologist-In-Charge Darin Figsurskey KC2IPY, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Jim Mcright KB4BZ, Bob Woodson WX4MMM, Dave Roy W4DNA, Phillip Jones KG4IVD, Robin Lane KI4LEC, Courtney Enzor KI4HOS and Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

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Above: Darin Figsurskey KC2IPY (left) logs contacts made by Rod Thomson KI4LSN on 40 meters.

RARS Officers

President:

Dick Bitner

W8HYD

919.872.6802

ncsol@bellsouth.net

Vice-President:

Selene Montgomery

KG4RMT

919.577.1254

kg4rmt@earthlink.net

Secretary:

Dick Orander

KD4ISC

919.469.5322

kd4isc@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Greg Seamster

KE4PAX

919.859.0029

ke4pax@arrl.net

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

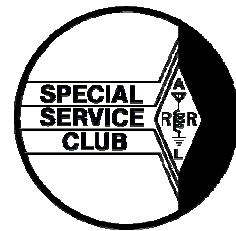
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (RARS.org).



The Exciter



The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:

Courtney Enzor

KI4HOS

courtney_enzor@yahoo.com

Enjoying the Holiday Spirit at the December RARS Meeting!



The December RARS meeting never fails to be a fun evening of music and holiday cheer. Enjoy a few highlights from the evening. Photos courtesy David Crawford KF4VXJ. Left: Bob Conder K4RLC receives a door prize from RARS President Dick Bitner W8HYD. Bottom left: Always a holiday favorite, the Encore Singers charmed RARS members with their festive music. Bottom: Chuck Littlewood K4HF officiates the installation of the RARS elected officers, board members, and chairpersons for the coming year.



VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

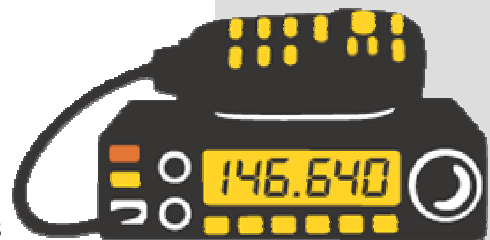
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



President's Corner



**Column by
Dick Bitner W8HYD
RARS President**

The holiday season has passed once again. I trust that you all had a great holiday season and are ready for the New Year.

I have been busy with business and health issues for most of December. I believe everything is now in control, and I look forward to a very successful 2007 with RARS.

I did manage to operate some on ARRL Straight Key Night, New Years Eve, since I'm not much of a party person. I won't divulge my total contacts, but let's just say it was fun and that I don't predict the "death of Ham Radio" due to no code. This "non-contest" has been one of the things I look forward to each year. You hear old rigs, new hams, old hams with new rigs, old keys, ragchews, and everyone involved having a great time.

Next year promises to be better for ham radio with the new sunspot cycle beginning

and with conditions on the HF bands improving. Code free is happening—I see some RARS folks advancing in license class as a result, and I, for one, welcome every edition to the HF bands. And as I said last month, digital modes are making themselves felt (and heard), allowing low-power DX contacts. Software-defined radios are becoming common. There's lots of exciting stuff going on, and RARS will be there as it happens. Wow—what a cool time to be a ham!

Want to upgrade? We'll put a class together.

I'll see you all at the meetings. Don't forget the RARS dinners on the 2nd Tuesdays at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave. All are welcome. Visit a board meeting in 2007 and get involved. As I said above, it's really a cool time to be a ham.

73 and Happy New Year

Dick W8HYD

**Visit the RARS website for up-to-the-minute
announcements, current information, and
special features at www.rars.org.**

Welcome New RARS Members!

Sam Garfield KI4SED

Hamfest Calendar

January 6	FirstFest Swapfest Winston-Salem, NC
January 13	Hamfest Greenwood, SC
January 13	Hamfest Lawrenceville, GA
February 3	ARRL SC State Convention Ladson, SC
February 18	Frostfest/ARRL VA State Convention Richmond, VA
March 10-11	NC ARRL Section Convention Charlotte, NC

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal* and other sources. If you would like your even listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

January Birthdays

Robert	N4GEB	1/1
Jerry	KE4TTS	1/4
Chuck	K4HF	1/4
John	N4YRD	1/8
Beth	KF4QMR	1/9
Jim	N4CAE	1/9
Jim	KI4NQU	1/11
Dan	KI4KUK	1/13
Johnnie	WA9SZL	1/19
Ashby	KB5ZIH	1/20
Kerrell	W4KGL	1/21
Ken	AC4RD	1/23
Henry	AE4MX	1/27
Alan	AB4OZ	1/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	1/30

November 2006 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net

Check-ins: 446

Traffic: 36/30

Minutes: 737

Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets

Check-ins: 74

Minutes: 450

Sessions: 8



Left: Jim McRight KB4BZ steadily adds to the list of contacts with NWS offices and SKYWARN supporters on 40 meters. All photos courtesy Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

In addition to two Kenwood dual-band radios already at the NWS, Dave Roy and Rod Thomson brought their HF rigs.

During contacts, volunteers exchanged names, call signs, locations, signal reports and weather reports with each station. Just a few moments before 9:00 AM, the first CQ went out by Rod Thomson. The reply came back from Aruba! Contacts

were made throughout the day with hams in 47 states, the Bahamas and as far away as Beauport, Grand-Mere and Baie-Comeau, all in Quebec, Canada.

Two volunteers made their very first HF contact ever - Courtney Enzor KI4HOS with N3HIS in Littitz, PA, and Phillip Jones KG4IVD with WX1CAR in Caribou, ME.

Here are the final statistics:

40 Meters	113 Contacts
20 Meters	106 Contacts
2 Meters	44 Contacts
UHF	15 Contacts
IRLP	66 Contacts
Total	344 Contacts



Above: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (right) smiles at making her first efforts on HF; Virginia Enzor NC4VA logs her contacts.

Total NWS Offices Contacted	41
Total Event Points	46
Certificate Earned	Flash Flood

Right: Dave Roy W4DNA (right) works through a 20 meter pile-up while Phillip Jones KG4IVD copies necessary information.

Thanks to all who participated and made contacts with us!

To receive a QSL card for your contact with WX4NC, please send a 6" x 9" self-addressed, stamped envelope to the following address:

National Weather Service
Raleigh Forecast Office
1005 Capability Drive, Suite 300
Centennial Campus
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606



Above: Robin Lane KI4LEC (left) and Bob Woodson WX4MMM are hard at work on 2 meters, 440 and IRLP.



Above: Jeff Orrock KI4KKX and Courtney Enzor KI4HOS search for just a few more NWS offices as the day winds down.



Please note that Central Carolina SKYWARN has a new URL! It's www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net. Please bookmark the site and visit it often for the latest information about spotter classes, net programs, activations, and other news.

General Meeting - December 2006

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for December 2006

The December meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on December 5, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail. Members gathered and shared holiday refreshments and a few minutes of fellowship prior to the official start of the meeting.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm and welcomed guests.

Door prizes were won by Bob Conder K4RLC and Mary Kelly-Crapse KI4PAF.

Dick W8HYD announced that the RARS dinner will be held next Tuesday at the Golden Corral located on Glenwood Avenue.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 225 club members.

Chuck Littlewood K4HF was given the floor to officiate the installation of the elected officers, board members and chairpersons. The following members were asked to stand at the front of the room when their office and term were announced:

Officers (2 year term)

- Vice President - Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- Treasurer - Greg Seamster KE4PAX

Board Members (1 year term)

- Public Information Officer – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- RARS 2007 Hamfest Chair – Hank Montgomery K4HM
- RARS Exciter Editor – Courtney Enzor KI4HOS
- RARS Net Manager – Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
- At-Large Director – Charlie Swindell WB4DCM
- At-Large Director – Rod Thomson KI4LSN
- FM Repeater Chair – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- RARS Membership Chair – Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL
- W4DW / W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
- ARRL Liaison – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
- Education Director – Virginia Enzor NC4VA

General Meeting - December 2006

Committer Chairmen (1 year term)

- RARS 2007 Field Day Chair – Neal Fisher N4HAF
- RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR
- RARS Webmaster – Steve Worley KB4HDQ

The members then took their oath of office.

Dick W8HYD thanked everyone for their work and time spent towards the club. He also reminded the members that there was still time to participate in the RARS HF Challenge.

The meeting was turned over to the Encore Singers who provided a festive and musical holiday presentation for the group to enjoy.

Dick W8HYD thanked Selene KG4RMT and her staff for putting together tonight's festivities. He then wished everyone a happy holiday as he closed the meeting.

Attendance: 36.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

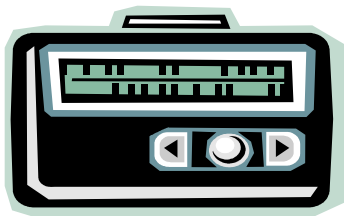
These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater	
442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland	443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton	444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson	444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary	444.775+ (tone of 131.8) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell	444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.



Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

January 9 — “Radiosondes” with NWS Data Acquisition Program Manager Deborah Money Penny.

January 23 — “Looking Back at the Blizzard: January 24-25, 2000 Snow Event” with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

Please note that our website has changed. We are now located at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net. Don't forget to change your bookmarks and linked pages!

The **Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5).

All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.



MERCURY
AMATEUR
RADIO
ASSOCIATION **MARA**

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The RARS

Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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Mark Your Calendar!

The next RARS meeting is Tuesday, January 2nd @ 7pm.
Start the new year off with a bang by coming to the first
club meeting of 2007! For details on the meeting location,
see page 3 of the *Exciter*.

